



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 548

Chairperson: Jim Jensen
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 9, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 548 relates to the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (sections 71-7605 to 71-7614). The bill:

1. Deletes language in section 71-7607 (Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund) permitting transfers from the fund to the Department of Health and Human Services Cash Fund, the Behavioral Health Services Fund, and the Attorney General Child Protection Cash Fund. The bill deletes language that directs the Department of Administrative Services to administratively create the Attorney General Child Protection Fund, and deletes obsolete language relating to transfers from the Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund.
2. Amends section 71-7608 (Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund); increases from \$2.5 million to \$3 million the amount of tobacco settlement revenues credited annually to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Cash Fund. LB 285A (2003) appropriated \$405,000 General Funds annually for FY 04 and FY 05 to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the tobacco prevention and control program. LB 548 would provide this additional funding from tobacco settlement revenues and General Funds would no longer be required.
3. Requires that transfers to the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund and the Nebraska Medicaid Intergovernmental Trust Fund (\$50 million annually) be offset by the amount of the unobligated balance in the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund at the time the transfer is made (sec. 71-7611).
4. Limits to \$50 million the amount that may be appropriated or transferred from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund in any fiscal year (sec. 71-7611).
5. Outright repeals sections 71-7601 to 71-7604, 71-7609, and 71-7610.
6. Contains an emergency clause.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Jim Jensen